Miller/Walker and Salmon Creek Basin Planning Effort

A Basin Plan Primer / Fact Sheet (Board 1 of 2)

What is a basin plan?

A basin plan provides technical information and analysis that is used to decide how best to address surface water management problems, such as flooding, poor water quality, erosion, and aquatic habitat degradation. A basin plan recommends cost-effective solutions to problems identified through field investigations, research of historical drainage and water quality complaints, information from the participating agencies, hydrologic modeling, and public input. Only problems of a regional nature are considered in a basin plan.

A basin plan is reviewed and approved by the elected officials of each participating agency involved. The plan does <u>not</u> provide funding or authorization for construction of capital projects or implementation of programs; it is a planning document that is implemented through future agreements among the agencies.

Who are the partners in this effort?

The Miller/Walker and Salmon Creek Basin Plan is a cooperative effort involving the cities of Burien, Normandy Park, and SeaTac, the Port of Seattle, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and King County. The participating agencies have signed an interlocal agreement (ILA) that specifies responsibilities and cost shares for the project. By cooperating, the parties can better use taxpayers' dollars by pooling resources and avoiding a piecemeal approach that could duplicate tasks and leave gaps.

What work will be done?

There are two main aspects to the basin plan:

1. To identify existing and predicted problems regarding the quantity and quality of surface water, particularly problems adversely affecting properties and aquatic resources; and

2. To cooperatively recommend cost-effective solutions to the highest priority problems of joint or common importance to ecological health and public safety.

How long will it take to complete the Miller and Salmon Creek Basin Plan effort?

The planning effort began in 2002; the plan is anticipated to be approved by all parties during 2004.

How will the Partners make decisions?

Decisions will be made by consensus among the Project Partners.

Why is this plan being done now?

Washington State requires cities such as Burien, Normandy Park, and SeaTac to meet current standards for protecting water quality within their boundaries. The cities want to step up to this responsibility and safeguard their streams. In addition, King County has a long-standing interest in developing a basin plan for this area. The Port of Seattle and the Washington State Department of Transportation are also property owners within the basin and want to work cooperatively to assess problems in the basin and work to develop solutions. The parties have discussed preparation of a basin plan for a number of years. All parties agree that now is the time to develop a plan.

How will the Miller and Salmon basin plan become effective?

The basin plan will only become effective after the legislative authorities of the Project Partners review and approve the plan. Any authorization and funding for capital projects would need to occur via separate interlocal agreements. The public can comment on all formal actions of their local legislative authorities.

How much will the Miller and Salmon Creek Basin Plan effort cost?

The total estimated cost of the planning effort is about $580,000. A grant from the King Conservation District and funds from a related White Center Greenway project and King County's Clean Water Act compliance program will contribute about $175,000 for this study. The remaining costs will be split among the Partners based on impervious area, land area, and population.

How will the public be involved?

There will be a public information Web site and several public meetings to share information and gather comments. In addition, public comment periods will occur during review and approval of the basin plan by the project partners' legislative authorities.